

# Mount Vernon Police Ledger February 2008



MOUNT VERNON CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Mount Vernon Police Ledger

### A Message to the Station

By Captain Michael Kline

2007 has sped by us and it was quite a year to remember. As you know, each year I try to get a feel for how we did for the year that just closed as soon as possible because it is always important to develop plans or amend plans based on the prior year's performance. Our official stats from 2004-2006 combined for a 22 percent reduction in overall crime. We also reduced our traffic crashes by about 4 percent per year over this same time frame.

As we all know, Fairfax County experienced huge increases, as did most major metropolitan areas, in burglaries and robberies in 2006. We also know that traffic crashes and alcohol related traffic crashes are always a major concern in the Capitol Area Region. As a result of these problems, our station goals for 2007 were to reduce burglaries and robberies within our district; continue to decrease our overall crime; as and continue to decrease traffic crashes through continued education, recommendation of

viable engineering changes, and enforcement initiatives.

While these statistics are **not yet official** preliminarily we have achieved every goal. By **unofficial** statistical review we have a 35 percent **decrease** in burglaries and a 10 percent **reduction** in robberies in our district while the county overall had another increase this year in robberies. More telling statistics about community crime and safety are the numbers of aggravated assaults and auto thefts. **Unofficially** had a **37 percent reduction** in aggravated assaults and a **25 percent reduction** in auto thefts.

From an accident perspective, we had a 8.7 percent **decrease** in injury and fatal crashes with a 4.7 percent **decrease** in total crashes. No doubt this has been attributed to our aggressive enforcement and excellent community education efforts surrounding traffic related issues. Through October we made more DWI arrests than any other district station and have already recorded

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#### Dates to Remember

**February 12 - CAC Meeting**

**February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday**

**February 14 - Valentine's Day**

**February 24 - Flag Day**

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more DWI arrests than all of 2006 (344 for Jan-Oct 2007 compared to 336 for all of 2006).

Another huge statistic is the cell block statistic comparison. In 2006 we brought 2,727 prisoners through our cell block and in 2007 we processed 3,207 for a 17.6 percent overall **increase**. Remember, each person we lock up might have information on other cases. When we treat them with dignity and respect while we process them, we are more likely to gain their cooperation to make a bigger and better case. It also leads us to finding out who is doing crimes in the community so that we can make quick arrests when series of crimes occur. **You do a tremendous job with this and your efforts are repeatedly recognized by CIB for providing them with timely information.**

This same information flow within the station has been outstanding!! There is not a day that goes by that the internal teamwork is not demonstrated. It has led to so many great arrests it would be embarrassing to miss one by discussing another; thereby making someone feel slighted. Each squad and unit has contributed equally to this effort. It is a rare day that I don't have a great self initiated case on my desk, or a case where extensive investigation has led to an important arrest.

The ongoing squad and station level training that takes place is a tribute to each set of supervisors. You continue to prepare for the next event and spend time critiquing events that were already covered. If there was ever an example of all of this training being put into play, it was the homicide and bus barricade case that occurred this Fall. It is hard to dream up a table top exercise better than that one. This was for real and you handled it great. Keep the squad level training up and we will continue to promote station- level training. Your imagination is our limit (okay, so is my budget allowance).

**ALL THAT YOU READ ABOVE ARE OUR GOALS AGAIN FOR THIS YEAR- Continued overall decreases in crime. Specifically, we want burglary and robbery numbers to continue to drop. We want to continue with aggressive DWI enforcement and have our wrecks continue to decrease. We will again achieve our goals by demonstrating the same commitment and teamwork we have over the past three years. The plan in place to adjust shifts (Midnights all year and Evenings during the Spring and summer months) are paying dividends for us. Daily foot patrols by all shifts is increasing our visibility and keeping us in the community for more time, especially while the kids are playing and the elderly are coming back from shopping. We will continue to partner with our friends from the Gang Unit, CIB, Organized Crime, and OSB to have initiatives intended to suppress crime and reduce traffic wrecks. While we are good, we need their help and they are all part of our team!!**

While we continue to accomplish these tasks the community also seeks our assistance with their quality of life concerns. We are making great strides in Janna Lee and the Sacramento Drive area. With the help of our sister agencies at the South County Government Center, we have been able to establish community partnerships that have helped us build trust in these high - risk neighborhoods. This current year I will be asking them to revitalize an initiative in Hybla Valley along the Lockheed Boulevard corridor. Truly, by having Human Services and the local non-profits working with the at risk communities while we aggressively suppress crime, *together, we can be the answer.*

Participating with events at the Teen Centers, the Evening Reporting Center, the schools, and places such as Progreso Hispano and the Hypothermia Shelters, is critical to our role as community leaders who can be trusted to solve problems in the best interest

## A Message to the Station

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of the community we serve. We will continue to be a partner who can be counted on to help with quality of life concerns. Remember, it was our push that got homeless xxxx the help she needed. It was the department's push to close the Fairview and nearly close the Southern Motel by using The Strike Team (keep in mind our traditional ways have failed for a long time to accomplish that task-thinking outside the box works). It was our push to get the Count Down Pedestrian Counters on the lights up and down THE HWY and to get time added to the crossing at the Homeless Shelter. And, it was our push that got the shopping carts out of Colchester/Audubon. We will never let ourselves give up on getting the right thing done no matter how frustrated we get working with the system.

**If it is the right thing to do for the community, we will figure out to get it done. That, my friends is the essence of Community Policing and Problem Oriented Policing.**

**Thank you for all you do. You make me proud to be the Commander of the Best Police Station, on the Best Police Department in the Country.**

"Remember it is always our job to do the right thing. Don't get frustrated by the failures of the system. What we do truly matters and we never take a political stance at the expense of people in need."

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## Laws of the Month

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### **46.2-833.1 Evasion Of traffic control device.**

It shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle to drive off the roadway and onto or across any public or private property in order to evade any stop sign, yield sign, traffic light, or other traffic control device.

### **46.2-826. Stop before entering public highway or sidewalk from private road, etc. ; yielding right-of-way.**

The driver of a vehicle entering a public highway or sidewalk from a private road, driveway, alley, or building shall stop immediately before entering such highway or sidewalk and yield the right-of-way to vehicle approaching on such public highway and to pedestrians or vehicles approaching on such public sidewalk. The provisions of this section shall not apply to an intersection of public and private roads controlled by a traffic signal. At any such intersection, all movement of traffic into and through the intersection shall be controlled by the traffic signal.

### **46.2-862. Exceeding speed limit.**

A person shall be guilty of reckless driving who drives a motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth (i) at a speed of twenty miles per hour or more in excess of the applicable maximum speed limit or (ii) in excess of eighty miles per hour regardless of the applicable maximum speed limit.

### **46.2-852. Reckless driving; general rule.**

Irrespective of the maximum speeds permitted by law, any person who drives a vehicle on any highway recklessly or at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person shall be guilty of reckless driving.

# Participate in Your Neighborhood Watch

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Rick and I would like every community in Mount Vernon to have a Neighborhood Watch and encourage an increase in the number of participants in communities where a Watch already exists. We resolve to do all we can to help communities start and sustain the Watch program. We have found that many shy away from participating in, or organizing a Watch for many reasons from, having no time to spare to seeing no crime in our community to a fear of retaliation by those who may prey on the neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch does not require anyone to walk, drive, confront, or contact anyone, or do anything that makes them uncomfortable. In fact, during Neighborhood



Watch training, we explicitly tell Watchers NOT to contact or confront those seen acting criminally or suspiciously.

A priority for the Watch program is establishing a means of communication between 1) neighbors, 2) neighboring communities and 3) the police department. The more accurate and timely information we can get out to an organized Watch group, the better they can help us protect their communities. With more people "in the know," we have a greater likelihood of having someone call the police for suspicious activity.

Neighborhood Watch is not an instant fix, nor is it a panacea, but we have found that when neighbors care about and participate in the program, we have a better chance at solving problems occurring, now and in the future.

Time constraints affect everyone and we understand that it is hard to find the time for another project. However, what could be more important than looking out for the safety of our families, property and community? Fear of reprisals or retaliation is another problem we understand, which is why, as I stated earlier, the program strongly dissuades any contact or confrontation between Watcher and potential suspects.

We want hundreds of pairs of eyes looking out for suspicious/criminal activity and calling us with timely, accurate and detailed information. This simple act greatly increases the police department's ability to investigate, arrest and deter crime. No matter where we live our community will be touched by crime at some point. Be it property, violent or nuisance crimes, quality of life issues or proximity to a serious event, all are possible and require awareness and preparedness. It is better to lay the foundation and be prepared, than to wait and be caught flat-footed after an incident occurs.

Starting and maintaining a Watch program can be a challenge for all the reasons already mentioned and other considerations specific to your community. It requires a core group of dedicated individuals to establish a program, but the time commitment generally decreases after the initial struggle or when the program is already established in your community. The level of activity of any Watch is totally up to the community and its needs. The most important part is the communications network. Please consider making one of your resolutions for 2007 to join or create a Neighborhood Watch for your community.



**Be Safe Everyone**



## Exceptional Crossing Guard

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The Mount Vernon District Station is proud to recognize William Hanusek as an exceptional crossing guard. Sgt. Cliff Armstrong describes Mr. Hanusek as “the most dedicated employee he has been around since he has been on the Department”. At 87, Mr. Hanusek is extremely reliable and handles his crossings each day, rain or shine. He enjoys helping his community and loves interacting with the children.



Mr. Hanusek is a World War II veteran and he volunteers to speak at local schools about what it was like growing up during that era. He has a great working relationship with the staff at Fort Hunt Elementary School and he attends school and community meetings on his own time. Mr. Hanusek will bring up any safety concerns at these meetings and he brings pertinent information back to his supervisors at the District Station.

Mr. Hanusek truly enjoys giving back to his community. His work ethic, dedication and caring attitude serve to motivate and inspire those around him. Mr. Hanusek has been a crossing guard with our Department for 14 years and there is no doubt that his work has had an impact on the community and the officers at the Mount Vernon District Station.

Crossing Guards Goral, Patterson and Hanusek should be proud of their achievements with the Fairfax County Police Department. It is reassuring to know that these are only a handful of the stories that could be told about our Department’s dedicated school crossing guards. Because our guards are so reliable and consistent, it is easy to take their hard work for granted. The next time you see a crossing guard at the District Station or drive through a crossing manned by one of them, be sure to thank them and let them know they are appreciated. It is the least we can do for these men and women who do so much for our Department and our community.

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## Crossing Guard Job Opportunity

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### **Job Description:**

Works ten hours per week. Controls traffic to ensure the safe and orderly movement of student pedestrians to and from school. Monitors operation of wink-o-matic school flashing lights during opening and closing times, and reports any malfunctions. Reports hazardous traffic conditions at student crossing locations.

### **Special Requirements:**

The appointee to this position

will be required to complete a criminal background check to the satisfaction of employer.

### **Minimum Qualifications:**

High school graduation or a G.E.D. issued by a state department of education. Knowledge of traffic regulations. Ability and willingness to work in inclement weather. Ability to work with children. Ability to follow written and oral instructions. Must possess tact and courtesy.

### **Note:**

Uniforms and training are provided. School Crossing Guards may be considered for a second position enabling the employee to receive health benefits through working at least forty hours each bi-weekly payroll.

### **Benefits:**

Most positions advertised here are merit system positions funded for full benefits such as health insurance, retirement, life insurance and paid leave. Follow the link for (continue page 4)

## Crossing Guard Job Opportunity

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details on Fairfax County's comprehensive [benefits program](#) for merit system employees. If a position is not funded for benefits that information will generally be included in the job announcement.

### To Apply:

Submit your resume on-line through the [AIMS system](#).

If this is the first time you have applied for a position with the [AIMS system](#), follow

the link and [create an account](#). It takes just a few minutes.

Once you have established your AIMS account you can use the Resume Builder to create a resume in a step-by-step process, or simply paste in an existing resume.

### Application Information:

The school crossing guard is a part time position with Fairfax County Police.

Pay Grade (S10)  
12.43 to 20.27/hour

Job number 08-9012

Fairfax County Application Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., #270, Fairfax, VA 22035



## Officer of the Month for January 2008

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OFC Matthew Guzzetta is currently assigned to the Midnight-A squad at the Mount Vernon District Station. In late August, Officer Guzzetta realized that robberies were occurring more often in his patrol area. Officer Guzzetta, utilizing informants he has developed, identified subjects who were likely involved in the robberies. On August 28, 2007, Officer Guzzetta was patrolling his area when he observed several subjects standing around, some of whom were identified to him as suspects in the robberies. Officer Guzzetta approached the subjects and began talking to them.



During the stop, the subjects were extremely uncooperative, and in fact one of the suspects stood on his balcony and cursed at Officer Guzzetta trying to entice him to act unprofessionally. Officer Guzzetta kept his composure and maintained his tact while continuing to talk to the subjects. During the stop, Officer Guzzetta was able to identify all the subjects and gather other pertinent information about them.



***Lock Your Vehicles  
&  
Remove All Property  
Help us reduce the opportunity  
for our communities to be victimized.  
Prevention Works!***



**Mount Vernon Citizens  
Advisory Committee**

**Fairfax County Police  
Department**

Mount Vernon District Station  
2511 Parkers Lane

Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Station Phone Number: 703-360-8400

Crime Prevention: 703-360-8928

Email: [mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**Non-Emergency—703-691-2131**

**EMERGENCY—911**

***Making Our Community Safer  
Through Crime Prevention***

**Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee**

Chairman - Judy Schultheis

Vice Chairman - Ginger Krup

Treasurer - Marianne Baltimore

Secretary - Mary Alvarado

**Mount Vernon District Station**

Station Commander - Captain Michael Kline

Assistant Commander - Lieutenant David Russell

Crime Prevention Officer - Rick Cook

Crime Prevention Officer - Robbie Clift



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Call 703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2664

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**Remember, for Non-Emergency events or reports, call  
703-691-2131**

## **Citizens Advisory Committee**

The Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee's monthly meeting will be on Feb 12 and will be held at the Mount Vernon Police station at 7:30 P.M. The speakers will be the members of the Enhancement Code enforcement Strike Force. This team will be able to address questions regarding the number of people that can reside in one dwelling, the amount of space needed to do so and other health and safety issues that overcrowding creates. Please come and have your questions answered. This is a very important issue that affects all of us and our neighbors.

